

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 11, 14, 17 and 21-26 remain pending in the application with the present amendments. In the Office Action, all claims were rejected either under 35. U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,283,764 to Kajiyama et al. ("Kajiyama") or under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Kajiyama* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,636,219 to Merrick et al. ("Merrick"). For the reasons set forth below, applicants respectfully submit that the presently pending claims overcome the rejections. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 5 sets forth a method of reproducing stream data in which reproduction of the stream data from a recording medium is monitored to determine when a predetermined address in the stream data is reached. At such time, an application is notified of action data which has a predetermined correspondence with the predetermined address. Information stored on the recording medium is referred to in order to identify the predetermined address and the action data.

An advantage of the invention recited in the presently pending claims is that synchronization can be maintained between a process of reproducing stream data and the execution of an application despite a delay encountered in the reproduction of the stream data. In the method recited in claim 5, the reproduction of the stream data is monitored to determine when a predetermined address in the stream data is reached. An application is notified of the action data at that time. Because monitoring determines when an address is reached rather than a point in time, the application is notified of the action data at a time which matches a position reached in the reproduction of the stream data, even if the reproduction of the stream data becomes delayed.

By contrast, neither *Kajiyama* nor the combination of *Kajiyama* and *Merrick* teaches or suggests these features of the invention recited in claim 1. *Kajiyama* relies on time information regarding phrases of music stored on a compact disc ("CD") (FIGS. 5, 7; col. 7, ln. 66 through col. 8, ln. 5; col. 10, lns. 62-63; col. 11, lns. 1-3). Reproduction of the music is monitored to determine when a specified time is reached in the music (col. 17, lns. 35-51), rather than when a predetermined address is reached.

Moreover, *Merrick* neither teaches nor suggests the features which *Kajiyama* lacks with respect to the presently claimed invention. *Merrick* is merely cited in relation to claims 21-23 as describing a system for achieving lip synchronization.

As the remaining independent claims 1 and 6 contain recitations similar to those of claim 5, applicants submit that these claims are also fully distinguished from *Kajiyama* and *Merrick*.

In addition, neither *Kajiyama* nor *Merrick* teaches or suggests the features of the invention recited in claims 24-26 of using a pointer to determine when the reproduction of the stream data reaches the predetermined address.

Support for the present amendments is provided, *inter alia*, at p. 9, lns. 7-10; p. 15, ln. 26 through p.16, ln.7 and p. 10, ln. 25 through p.12, ln. 21.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.


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If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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